

REMARKS

Claims 1-19, 22-26, and 29-88 are all the claims presently pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 20-21 and 27-28 are canceled, and claims 22-23 are amended to be in independent form, including all features and limitations of claim 21 from which they previously depended. Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's indication that claims 22-23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format, and that claims 1-19, 24-26, and 29-88 are allowed.

It is noted that the claim amendments, if any, are made only to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States patent practice, and are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the allowed claim.

Claims 20-21 and 27-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lauffenburger, et al. (US 6,661,774), in view of Sethuram (US 6,058,114). Although Applicant maintains the arguments of the previous Amendments and strenuously disagrees with the Examiner's reasoning and characterizations, the claims are amended herein in the interest of expediting prosecution.

Claims 20-21 and 27-28 are canceled by this Amendment. Allowable claims 22-23 are amended by this Amendment to be in independent form, including all features and limitations of claim 21 from which they previously depended.

Thus, all claims herein are allowed or allowable as presently recited. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 22-23.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-19, 22-26, and 29-88, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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